

Impact Aid is currently Title 8 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA, also known as No Child Left Behind. As we work to reauthorize ESEA in the House Education and Workforce Committee this year, I am optimistic that we can improve Impact Aid in a bipartisan way.

My bill increases efficiency, eliminates subjectivity, and seeks funding equity. This bill has strong bipartisan support. The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, NAFIS, worked tirelessly to develop this bill with the broad input of these impacted districts. The Impact Aid Coalition includes 105 Members of Congress.

The bill includes the following major improvements: maintains stability for school districts with military bases going through housing renovation and privatization; allows for an updated "current year count" when districts see a major influx of students due to troop deployment or other federal action; and expedites the U.S. Department of Education's payments, which currently run up to four years behind.

I thank my principal co-sponsor Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM of South Dakota for her partnership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide relief to local taxpayers and ensure that all our children receive the education they deserve.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE REV.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
DEATH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the nation takes pause to observe the 43rd anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a Member of the Select Committee on Assassinations that reinvestigated the murder of Dr. King, this day reminds me of that horrible day in 1968. Forty-three years ago today, the man who dreamed of a "more perfect union" was gunned down by American terrorist in Memphis, Tennessee, but his dream continues to become reality today. One cannot observe this day without reflecting on the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. This anniversary reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

The story of Dr. King is pressed upon me. I am reminded of my work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and hearing Dr. King's inspiring words fill a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we remember this man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Mr. Speaker, these words were spoken by Dr. King two months to the day before his death. Thus it is 43 years after his death, Dr. King continues to teach us all.

Mr. Speaker, during these difficult days as we observe violence throughout the world, all should take pause to the message of non-violence and speak as Dr. King spoke truth to power.

Dr. King's dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality. There is no doubt that Dr. King supported freedom and justice for every individual in America. We continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for being here and remembering Dr. King's dream and for all that has been done to keep his dream alive.

PROTECT WORKERS RIGHTS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss H.R. 807, a bill which would allow collective bargaining over compensation related labor-management disputes. Examples of such disputes include locality pay, overtime pay, shift differential pay, and performance pay.

I would like to emphasize that my bill continues to protect the basic rates of pay so that VA employees cannot bargain over the federal pay scales. However, I have heard stories where a VA nurse's overtime pay is miscalculated but there is no recourse for addressing this inaccuracy.

H.R. 807 would also help VA with their recruitment and retention efforts since prospective employees would have the assurance that they will be treated fairly when it comes to the enforcement of pay laws and regulations.

I believe this bill is just the first step in protecting the employment rights of VA healthcare providers. It is the right thing to do for those hard-working men and women who care for our veterans every day.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—GARRETT HERINGTON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people, recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the Congressional Record to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

I had the opportunity to help out a charitable organization called V.O.L.T., which stands for Vision of Light Team. The 'Vision of Light Team' is an eyeglass mission. They have been to Cameroon twice and recently to Guatemala. They hold vision clinics and distribute used eyeglasses to those in need. They have also trained a team in Cameroon to do vision clinics. V.O.L.T. regularly sends both eyeglasses and money to support this ongoing mission. I worked directly with the head of the charity to clean, organize and label the operational items so the charity is ready for future missions. The project was done over the course of 4 weeks and the main project was preparing, cleaning and labeling eyeglass donations for a future trip to Cameroon, Africa.